

prison? Or the young boys on the slave block in southern Sudan?

I know these are harsh thoughts. But we are dealing with harsh dictators and regimes. What we do here matters. What we say and the content of legislation we pass have real consequences. In this case, innocent people, clear on the other side of the world, pay an enormous price.

Please think about this. Did these companies mean to give Anne Wexler this much power? If you are a government official working on these matters, do you think about what your actions mean to those who have no one looking out for them? And if you are a Member of Congress, do you remember when Anne Wexler and company stops by, that no one is speaking for those on the other end—those in Sudan, in Iraq and in China? Just because Anne Wexler is the only voice, she shouldn't be the loudest voice.

Perhaps the worse thing they have done with their access is to deliberately misstate the moderate nature of the Wolf-Specter Freedom from Religious Persecution bill. At its root it calls for withdrawal of non-humanitarian taxpayer subsidies to hardcore persecuting countries and gives the president total discretion to maintain the subsidies.

In the end, however, Members will read the bill and understand its moderate character and people in the pews will hear that this bipartisan effort gives the persecuted people of the world a needed voice.

CITY NEWS 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL AWARD

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 1998

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 7, 1998, the City News Publishing Company of Plainfield, NJ will present the City News 100 Most Influential. According to the parameters of the 100 Most Influential, the awards are presented for the purpose of "honoring individuals for their tireless efforts in furthering the progress of black people in New Jersey and rebuilding New Jersey's urban communities."

Mr. Speaker, City News is the largest African American newspaper in New Jersey. It created the 100 Most Influential Award to honor and celebrate the efforts of people and corporations that have supported efforts to infuse economic, social, cultural, scientific, spiritual and political vitality into New Jersey's urban centers. Individuals are honored for their work in the following categories; civil rights; corporate community involvement; community development; community service; education; economic development; entertainment and sports; health, science and technology; media, arts and culture; minority business enterprise; politics, law and government; and religion. Nominations for the 100 Most Influential are received from former nominees and honorees, the corporate community and from the readers of City News. While honorees are notified of their awards, the names are kept confidential until the night of the award ceremonies.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to salute the City News Publishing Company for their

ongoing service to the community, and, particularly for their recognition of outstanding citizens of our state for their contributions in many walks of life. With the support of numerous corporate sponsors, particularly event co-sponsors PSE&G and Dun & Broadstreet, City News is continuing its fine tradition of leadership. I anxiously await to hear the names of the winners, all of whom I am sure will be very well deserving of this great honor.

TO COMMEMORATE MONSIGNOR JOHN A. BURNS ON HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 1998

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sending warm wishes to Monsignor John A. Burns on the occasion of his 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the priesthood.

Monsignor Burns was ordained as a priest on May 22, 1948. He celebrated his first Mass at Incorporation Parish, where he had previously served faithfully as an alter boy for over a decade. Msgr. Burn's first assignment was to St. Ephrem's in Bay Ridge. He spent 17 years there. After that the Monsignor spent four years at the Guardian Angel Parish and five years at St. Sebastian's in Woodside.

Then in June 1974 Monsignor Burns received his first pastorate at Mary Queen of Heaven. Over the next 23 years he helped create many social as well as spiritual groups, including strong senior citizen groups, a sports program for children from grammar school through high school, a drama club, travel group, and an arts and ceramic group. On May 22, 1988 Msgr. Burns was elevated to Monsignor on the same day he celebrated his fortieth anniversary of priestly ordination. Over the years of his priestly endeavors as pastor of Mary Queen of Heaven Church have been spent in unceasing efforts to imbue the community with a rich spiritual life, as well as beautify the church.

I would like to take this time to say that we should not let this anniversary be a celebration of how many years Monsignor has served. Rather it should be a celebration of the events and actions that the Monsignor has been a part of over the years. He has been an inspirational figure to us all.

Congratulations, Monsignor Burns, on the occasion of your 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM AT BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I rise to pay tribute to the National Youth Sports Program at Bronx Community College, which is dedicated to improving the lives of young people in the Bronx.

Under the leadership of Dr. Joyne Bloom, Administrator, and Mr. Guy Hughes, Activity Director, over four hundred boys and girls annually have benefited from their participation in this program, which assists economically disadvantaged young people through summer educational and sports experiences on the College's campus.

The curriculum consists of comprehensive team and individual lifetime sports instruction as well as aquatics, dance and martial arts. There is an academic component of the instruction in drug and alcohol abuse prevention, nutrition and personal health, career goals and opportunities, and job responsibilities.

A healthy meal and snack are offered on a daily basis. Students learn the values of teamwork, sharing group cohesion, respect and citizenship. Awards are given for exemplary achievement. Boys and girls ages ten through sixteen learn to become contributing members of their communities.

In 1994 this program received a proclamation from the Bronx Borough President's office and in 1994 and 1995 the Office of the Mayor of the City of New York also presented the program with a proclamation.

And, today, Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Joyce Bloom, Mr. Guy Hughes and the National Youth Sports Program at Bronx Community College.

SENSE OF CONGRESS ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, on May 14th, 1948 the modern state of Israel was proclaimed, creating a homeland for the worldwide Jewish diaspora from the ancient land of Abraham and David. In the life of any country, a 50th anniversary is a notable milestone of historical achievement. In the case of Israel, a half-century of life exemplifies nothing less than an enduring miracle.

The Jewish people, drawn to their country by a sacred relationship and a divine promise, flourished in ancient times. Their history is a seemingly never-ending succession of miracles, punctuated by the painful sting of suffering. A poor, enslaved people in the Land of Egypt, the Israelites were led by God out of Egypt and into the desert and freedom. It was there in the barren desert that their leader, Moses, went up to Mt. Sinai and came down with the Torah, the word of God. In the midst of their escape and suffering in the barren wilderness, the Jewish people provided the world with the Ten Commandments, the foundation of all western morality.

Back in their own country, the Jewish people ultimately realized the greatness that the Lord had promised. From King David, the poet warrior, to Solomon, the model of wisdom, the Jews gave us heroes that stir our hearts and souls still.

Sadly, though, Jewish suffering was not at its end. IN 722 B.C.E. the Assyrians vanquished ten of their twelve tribes and sent the